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10/677,125	09/30/2003	John C. Krumm	13768.783.73.1	3913

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WORKMAN NYDEGGER/MICROSOFT
1000 EAGLE GATE TOWER
60 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE
SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84111

EXAMINER

YALEW, FIKREMARIAM A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2136

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/677,125	Applicant(s) KRUMM ET AL.	
	Examiner Fikremariam Yalew	Art Unit 2136	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 May 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 12-18 and 20-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 12-18 and 20-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) ☐ Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is responding to the amendment received on 05/11/2007.
2. Claims 1-2,10,12-18,20-29,33-34,36 has been amended. Claims 11,19 are canceled. Claim 37 is new added. Claims 1-10,12-18,20-37 are pending.
3. The examiner withdraws 35 U.S.C 101 rejection based on the applicant amendment. The examiner also withdraws the double patenting based on the applicant amendment.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-10,12-18,20-37 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Regarding claim 36, the phrase "configured to" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitation(s) following the phrase "configured to" is actually performed. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-10,12-18,20-37 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bruckert et al (hereinafter referred as Bruckert) US 5,430,761 in view of Dacosta (US Patent No 6,978,023).

9. As per claims 1,23-24: Bruckert teaches In a network environment, a method/a computer readable medium/system for detecting a proximity of multiple resources and identifying proximate network resources to a network device the method comprising: obtaining signal strength data of a first network device with respect to signals received by the first network device from at least one stationary base station (See Fig 4 step 102 and col 5 lines 37-44,col 6 lines 40-49); determining that the first network device is proximate one or more of the network resources(col 5 lines 25-36); and identifying to the first network device the one or more network resources determined to be proximate the first network device (See col 8 lines 3-9 and col 5 lines 25-36).

Bruckert doesn't explicitly teach obtaining signal strength data of network resources with respect to signals received by the network resources from the at least one stationary base station, the network resources and the first network device being

remote to the at least one stationary base station; comparing the signal strength data of the first network device with the signal strength data of the network resources.

However Dacosta teach obtaining signal strength data of network resources with respect to signals received by the network resources from the at least one stationary base station (See col 3 lines 61 through col 4 line 30 and Fig 6 steps 616,618), the network resources and the first network device being remote to the at least one stationary base station (See Fig 3 step 200 and Fig 7 steps 604,606,608); comparing the signal strength data of the first network device with the signal strength data of the network resources (See Fig 6 steps 618). Therefore it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art the invention was made to modify the teachings method of Dacosta within the method of Bruckert inorder to provide a method location based wireless client authentication. (See Dacosta col 2 lines 1-3).

10. As per claim 2: the combination of Burckrt and Dacosta teach the method of wherein obtaining signal strength data of the first network device comprises scanning at the first network device for radio signals at radio frequencies (See Burckrt col 2 lines 18-20).

11. As per claim 3: the combination of Burckrt and Dacosta the method wherein scanning for radio signals comprises scanning a subset of channels (see Burckrt col 2 lines 24-57).

12. As per claim 4: the combination of Burckrt and Dacosta teach the method wherein scanning for radio signals comprises performing a passive scan (See Burckrt col 2 lines 24-57).

13. As per claim 5: the combination of Burckrt and Dacosta teach the method wherein scanning for radio signals comprises performing an active scan (See Burckrt col 2 lines 24-57).
14. As per claim 6: the combination of Burckrt and Dacosta teach the method further comprising mathematically smoothing a plurality of signal strength data into a smoothed value (See Burckrt col 3 lines 21-36).
15. As per claim 7: the combination of Burckrt and Dacosta teach the method wherein obtaining signal strength data of the first network device comprises receiving a report from the first network device at a server (See Burckrt col 3 lines 14-25).
16. As per claim 8: the combination of Burckrt and Dacosta teach the method wherein the report is received on a regular basis from the client (See Burckrt col 4 lines 27-47).
17. As per claim 9: the combination of Burckrt and Dacosta teach the method wherein the report is received as determined by the client (See Burckrt col 4 lines 27-39 and col 5 lines 26-36).
18. As per claim 10: the combination of Burckrt and Dacosta teach the method wherein the network resources comprise a second network device, and wherein obtaining signal strength data of the first network device comprises receiving a report at the second network device from the first network device (See Dacosta col 3 lines 61 through col 4 line 30 and Fig 6 steps 616,618).
19. As per claim 12: the combination of Burckrt and Dacosta teach the method wherein comparing the signal strength data comprises evaluating a number of base

stations in common between the first network device and one or more network resources (See Dacosta col 3 lines 61 through col 4 line 30 and Fig 6 steps 616,618).

20. As per claim 13: the combination of Burckrt and Dacosta teach the method wherein the signal strength data of the first network device comprises a first set of signal strength values, each value associated with each base station of a plurality of base stations seen by the first network device and, wherein the signal strength data of network resources comprises a second set of signal strength values, each value paired with each base station of a plurality of base stations seen by a second network device corresponding to the network resources, and wherein comparing the signal strength data comprises evaluating signal strength values for base stations seen in common by the first device and the resources(See Dacosta Fig 1 steps 110,102 and Fig 6 steps 616,618).

21. As per claim 14: the combination of Burckrt and Dacosta teach wherein evaluating signal strength values for base stations seen in common comprises, ordering base stations seen in common by signal strength values into a first ordering for the first network device and a second ordering for the second network device, and determining similarity between the first ordering and the second ordering (See Burckrt col 4 lines 27-39 and col 2 lines 18-33).

22. As per claim 15: the combination of Burckrt and Dacosta teach the method wherein a server determines that the one or more network resources are proximate the first network device, and further comprising, the server returning proximity-related data to the first network device that corresponds to the one or more network resources

determined to be proximate the first network device (See Dacosta col 4 lines 8-30 and Fig 6 steps 616,618).

23. As per claim 16: the combination of Burckrt and Dacosta teach the method further comprising, at the first network device, querying a database based on the proximity-related data for additional information corresponding to the one or more network resources determined to be proximate the first network device (See Burckrt col 1 line 67 through col 2 line 47).

24. As per claim 17: the combination of Burckrt and Dacosta teach wherein the network resources determined to be proximate the first network device comprises a second network device, and further comprising, receiving at the first network device additional information including biographical information corresponding to a user of the second network device (See Burckrt col 1 line 67 through col 2 line 47).

25. As per claim 18: the combination of Burckrt and Dacosta teach the method wherein identifying to the first network device the one or more network devices determined to be proximate the first network device comprises transmitting a list of at least one proximate client including proximity-related data corresponding to the client, to the first network device (See Burckrt col 4 lines 27-39 and col 2 lines 18-33).

26. As per claim 20: the combination of Burckrt and Dacosta teach wherein the one or more network resources comprises a second network device, wherein the one or more network a server receives signal strength data from the second network device, and wherein the server returning proximity-related data to the first network device that corresponds to the second network device comprises transmitting the signal strength

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data of the second network device to the first network device (See Dacosta col 4 lines 8-30 and Fig 6 steps 616,618).

27. As per claim 21: the combination of Burckrt and Dacosta teach the method wherein determining that the first network device is proximate the second network device comprises processing the signal strength data of the second network device at the first network device (See Burckrt col 2 lines 18-33).

28. As per claim 22: the combination of Burckrt and Dacosta teach the method wherein at least one of the one or more network resources is fixed, and further comprising, providing a simulated signal strength for the fixed network resource (See Burckrt col 2 lines 18-33)

29. As per claim 25: the combination of Burckrt and Dacosta teach the system wherein the second network the entity comprises a server (See Dacosta col 4 lines 8-30 and Fig 6 steps 616,618).

30. As per claim 26: the combination of Burckrt and Dacosta teach the system wherein the second network entity comprises a different client device in the network (See Burckrt col 1 line 67 through col 2 line 17).

31. As per claim 27: the combination of Burckrt and Dacosta teach the system wherein the proximity-related data comprises a list of other network resources that are proximate the client device (See Burckrt col 2 lines 18-33 and col 4 lines 27-39).

32. As per claim 28: the combination of Burckrt and Dacosta teach the system wherein the client device is a first client device and wherein the third network resources

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comprises at least one other client device. (See Burckrt col 2 lines 18-33 and col 4 lines 27-39).

33. As per claim 29: the combination of Burckrt and Dacosta teach the system wherein the client program of the first client device processes the signal strengths of the third network resource to determine which other resources are proximate the client device (See Burckrt col 2 lines 18-33 and col 4 lines 27-39).

34. As per claim 30: the combination of Burckrt and Dacosta teach teach the system wherein the client program receives the proximity-related data from a server (Fig 6 steps 616,618).

35. As per claim 31: the combination of Burckrt and Dacosta teach the method wherein the output mechanism comprises a display (See Burckrt col 2 lines 18-33 and col 4 lines 27-39).

36. As per claim 32: the combination of Burckrt and Dacosta teach the system of claim 24 further comprising a database, wherein the client program accesses the database to present the information that corresponds to the proximity-related data on the output mechanism of the client device (See Dacosta Fig 3 step 200).

37. As per claim 33: the combination of Burckrt and Dacosta teach the system wherein the third network resource comprises another client device, and wherein the database returns biographical data corresponding to a user of the another client device (See Dacosta col 4 lines 8-30 and Fig 6 steps 616,618).

38. As per claim 34: the combination of Burckrt and Dacosta teach the system wherein the another client device comprises a printer (See Dacosta Fig 3 step 200).

39. As per claim 35: the combination of Burckrt and Dacosta teach explicitly the system wherein the network comprises a wireless 802.11 network (See Dacosta col 4 lines 42-55).

40. As per claim 36: Burckrt teaches a computer readable storage medium having stored thereon a data structure usable for presenting proximity-related information to a user of a network device the data structure comprising: an identifier field for identifying respective base station (See col 8 lines 3-9 and col 5 lines 25-36) and a signal strength value representative of a signal strength of the network device of the first data field with respect to that respective base station (See col 8 lines 3-9 and col 5 lines 25-36).

Burckrt does not explicitly teaches a plurality of data sets, wherein each data set is specific to a particular network resource and comprises: a first data field for storing a data representative of a respective network device; second field for storing data associating the respective network device of the first data field with one or more base stations where in the second data field for a first network device is configured to be compared with the second data field for a second network device to determine whether the second network device is proximate the first network device so as to report the proximity of the second network device to a user of the first network device.

However Dacosta teaches a plurality of data sets, wherein each data set is specific to a particular network resource and comprises: a first data field for storing a data representative of a respective network device (See Fig 5 step 512 and col 2 lines 17-29); second field for storing data associating the respective network device of the first data field with one or more base stations where in the second data field for a first

network device is configured to be compared with the second data field for a second network device to determine whether the second network device is proximate the first network device so as to report the proximity of the second network device to a user of the first network device(See Dacosta col 4 lines 8-30 and Fig 6 steps 616,618).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art the invention was made to modify the teachings method of Dacosta within the method of Bruckert inorder to provide a method location based wireless client authentication. (See Dacosta col 2 lines 1-3).

41. As per claim 37: the combination of Burckrt and Dacosta teach the method wherein the one or more of the network resources determined to be proximate the first network device includes a network resource not having wireless capabilities, and wherein the signal strength data of the network resource not having wireless capabilities an determined to be proximate the first network device is a simulated wireless signal strength (See Fig 2 step 108 and Fig 6 step 616,618).

Conclusion

42. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fikremariam Yalew whose telephone number is 5712723852. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Moazzami Nasser can be reached on 571-272-4195. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Fikremariam Yalew
07/16/07
FA

Art Unit 2136

NASSER MOAZZAMI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100


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